



# NO OTHER GODS

Here are some ideas on how to start your evening off. Pick any of the following:

- Ask a discipleship question (e.g. Who are you intentionally building up in the faith?)
- Ask a question about how they are living on mission (e.g. When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone?)
- Share evidences of God's grace (There are different ways to pose this. e.g. Share how you have seen Fruit of the Spirit growth in each other)
- Invite 1-2 individuals to share their faith story (e.g. life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, how Jesus has changed them, what Jesus is doing in their life lately)

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## OPENING COMMENT

How should Christians view the Old Testament Law? Does the grace of God we find in the gospel do away with the law? What implications does the finished work of Jesus on the cross have on the law? As we introduce this sermon series on the 10 Commandments, we begin to look at the relationship between the law and the gospel and unpack the first commandment: "You shall have no other gods before me".

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## READ THE TEXT: Exodus 20:1-3

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup>"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Replace each of the 10 Commandments with what you would consider to be it's modern, societal counterpart: *i.e.* 8. *Steal from those who won't really miss it.*



2. What are the ways in which you struggle with the place of God's law in your life as a Christian?
3. Can we be justified by the law? Why or why not?
4. Jesus said that not an iota or dot (the smallest markings in the written Word) in the law would pass away until all was fulfilled. How did Jesus fulfill the law? How did the law point to Him?
5. What's the first and greatest commandment? How did Jesus fulfill it (and deepen it as He fulfilled it)?
6. What is 'the second like it'? How did Jesus fulfill it (and deepen it as He fulfilled it)?
7. Look at all Ten Commandments and discuss how each one relates to the law of loving God and our neighbour.
8. Read verses 1-2. It is important to see that the 10 Commandments begin, not with the law, but the gospel. It is also important to see that this God who calls us to have no other gods is a personal, knowable God who has done great things for us. What experiences in your life have shown you that the Lord is near you and personal?
9. How would you counter the argument that the first commandment either makes God out to be selfish or Christians to be narrow-minded?
10. Using the 'what do you love?' and 'what do you trust?' tests, what are some potential idols — or God-substitutes — in your life?
11. How can you prevent these things from becoming idols that steal your affections for Christ and away from wholehearted devotion to God?

## CONCLUSION

To know God, we must know Jesus, and to know Jesus is to know the One who fulfills and transforms all the law and the prophets. He Himself *is* God's new law. Do you know Jesus? Is He who you place your love and trust in? Do you live for His glory? After all, it's Jesus who says: *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of your bondage to sin, out of your slavery to Satan. You shall have no other gods before me.*

## SHARE & PRAY

- Pray in response to the Word you've studied and the things it's caused you to share with each other about.
- Take some time to thank God for what He's been doing in your lives.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

